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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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SHANG-CHI VS. FU MANCHU! MASTER OF KUNG FU®

I SWORE
TO OPPOSE YOU,
DENOUNCE YOU,
DESTROY YOU!

NOW, MY
FATHER, YOU
DIE!

THE
DRAGONS!





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says...

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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

WARRIORS OF THE GOLDEN DAWN

PART
7



THE DRAGONS

"ATOP THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK: WE HAVE WON. LEIKO AND I ONLY TO LOSE. WE HAVE CONQUERED MY FATHER'S MOST INVINCIBLE SURROGATES, ONLY TO FALL IN THE PIZZING SPELL OF MIMOSA SAS... WATCHING AS FU MANCHU, THE ONLY TRUE WINNER, MAKES HIS ESCAPE."



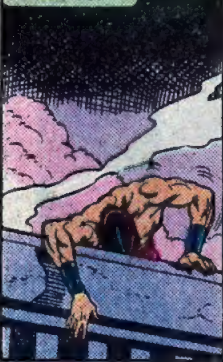
"NONE OF IT FITS IN THIS TIME OR SPACE EVERYTHING, EACH OF US, IS LIKE THE DRAGON REBORN LONG PAST ITS TIME, A CREATURE NURTURED IN THE REALM OF MYTH, NOW FORCED TO DWELL IN THIS WORLD OF HARSH, STRANGE REALITY."

"IT CANNOT
BE REAL..."

DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK / GENE DAY / NOVAK / BOB SHAREN / JIM SALICRUP / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER ARTIST INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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"AND YET THE FACT REMAINS: I HAVE FALLEN. MY FATHER ESCAPES, AND MAY YET WIN THE FINAL STRUGGLE..."



"...UNLESS I FORCE MYSELF TO FIGHT THE HAZE OF MIMOSA AND..."



"...AND MAKE A LEAP... AMOUNTING TO SUICIDE."

"HOW CAN I EVEN THINK OF IT?"



"NO ONE COULD MAKE SUCH A JUMP... AND YET EVERYONE IN THIS CITY MAY SOON DIE ANYWAY..."



"-- IF SMITH AND TARR FAIL TO REFUSE THE NUCLEAR BOMB CACHED IN THE SEWER SYSTEM..."

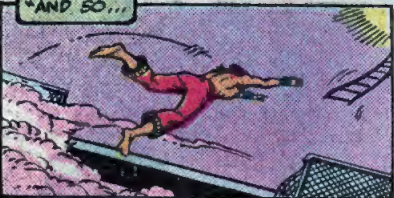


"LESS THAN TEN MINUTES LEFT ON THE TIMER, BLACK JACK -- AND NO WAY TO STOP IT WITHOUT TOOLS!"

"YEAH, I KNOW."



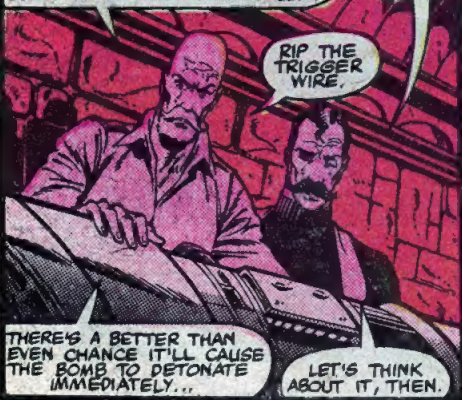
"AND SO..."



"...I LEAP."

"IT'S COME TO THE LAST GAMBLE-- WHICH MAY AMOUNT TO SUICIDE BUT IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE LEFT"

"WHAT IS IT?"

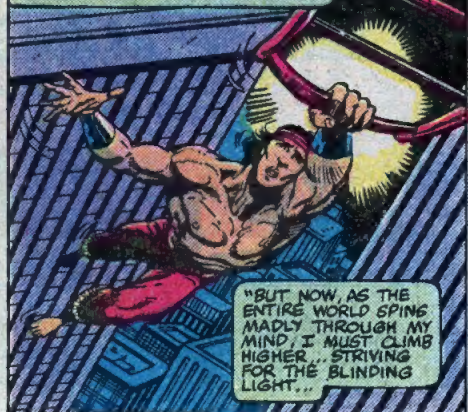


"RIP THE TRIGGER WIRE."

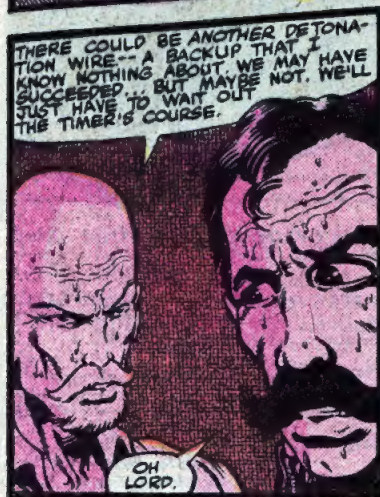
"THERE'S A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE IT'LL CAUSE THE BOMB TO DETONATE IMMEDIATELY..."

"LET'S THINK ABOUT IT, THEN."

"AH! AT THE LAST MOMENT, IT SEEMED I WOULD GRASP A MERE VISION..."



"BUT NOW, AS THE ENTIRE WORLD SPINS MADLY THROUGH MY MIND, I MUST CLIMB HIGHER... STRIVING FOR THE BLINDING LIGHT..."



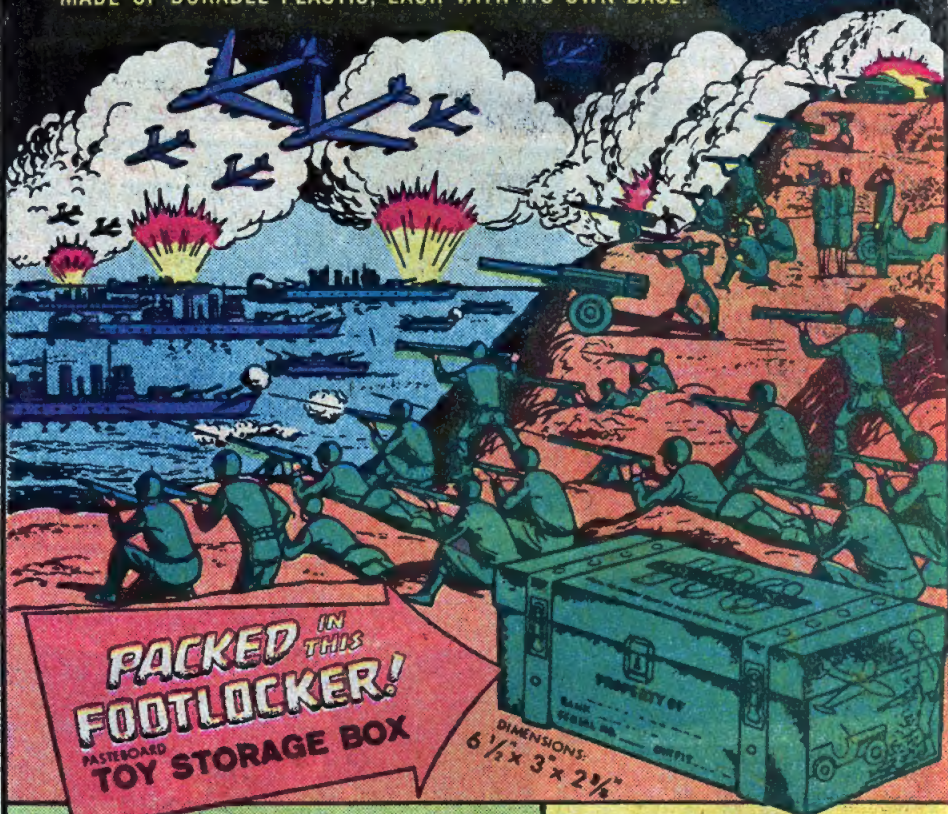
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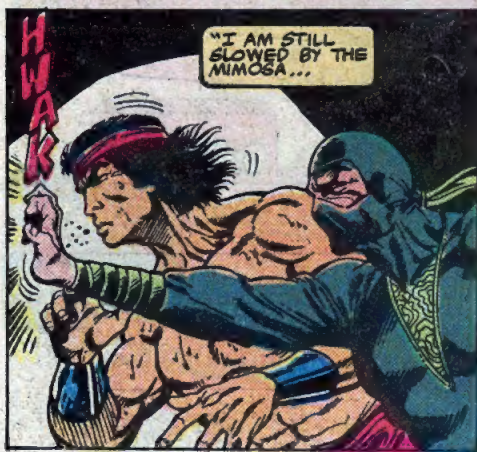
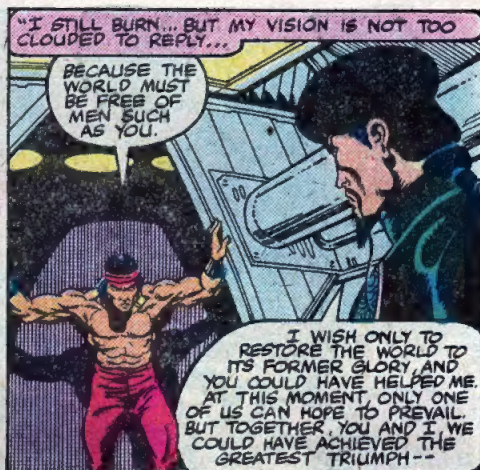
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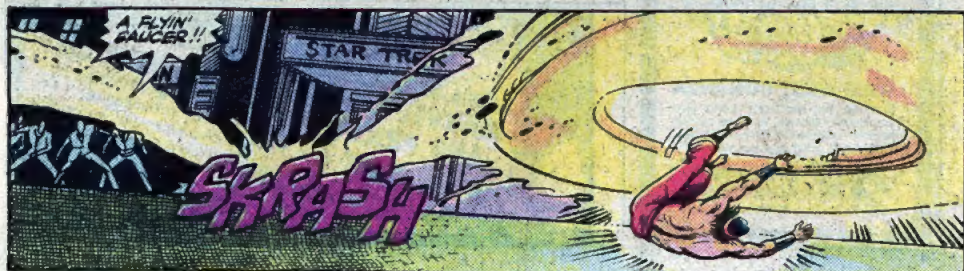
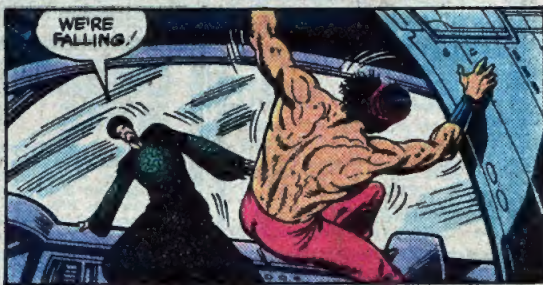
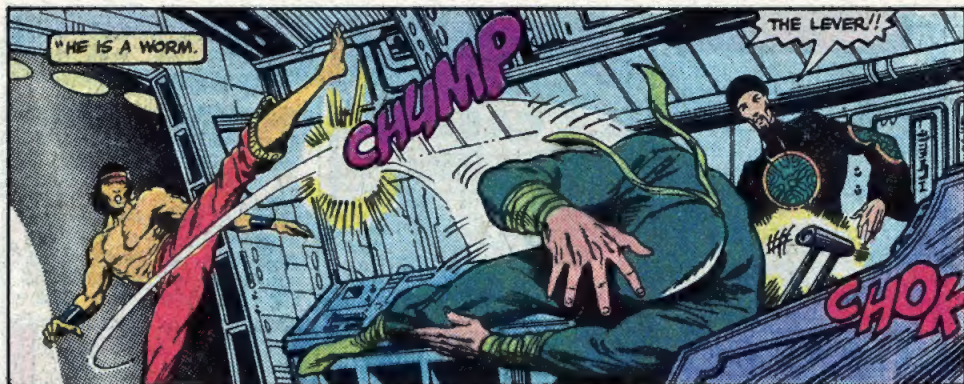


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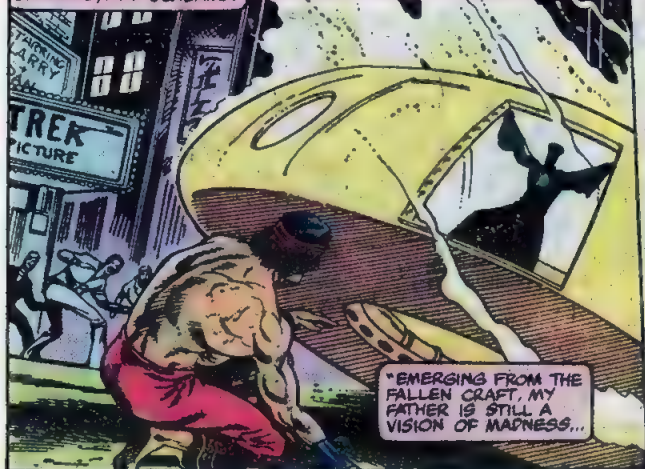
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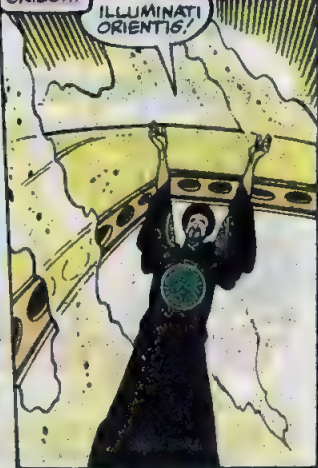
"I RISE, SHAKEN, SURROUNDED BY BRIGHT LIGHTS, RUNNING SHADOWS, AND SCREAMS



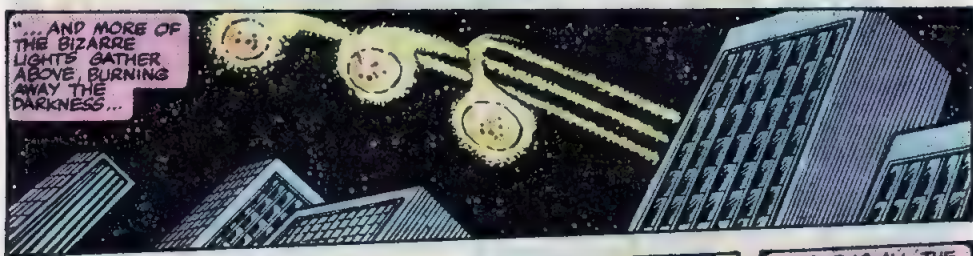
"EMERGING FROM THE
FALLEN CRAFT, MY
FATHER IS STILL A
VISION OF MADNESS...

"HE BECKONS TO THE DARK
SKIES...

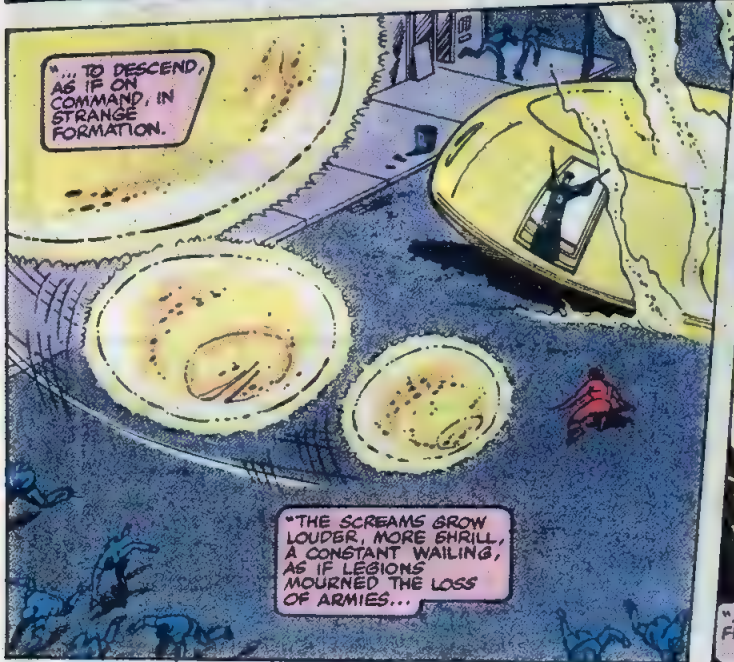
ILLUMINATI
ORIENTIS!



"... AND MORE OF
THE BIZARRE
LIGHTS GATHER
ABOVE, BURNING
AWAY THE
DARKNESS...



"... TO DESCEND,
AS IF ON
COMMAND, IN
STRANGE
FORMATION.



"THE SCREAMS GROW
LOUDER, MORE SHRILL,
A CONSTANT WAILING,
AS IF LEGIONS
MOURNED THE LOSS
OF ARMIES...

"YES, IT IS ALL THE
STUFF OF DRAGONS,
NONE OF IT FITTING
IN THE HERE AND
NOW, ALL OF IT SO
STRANGE... SO ALIEN
... RECALLING THE
RIDDLE POSED MANY
DAYS PAST...

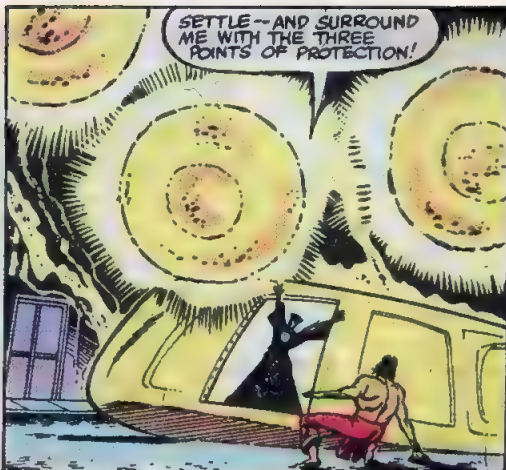


"... THE RIDDLE WHOSE
FINAL ANSWER HAS NEVER
BEEN REVEALED...

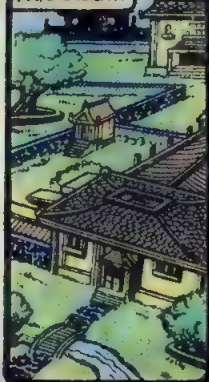
"IT BEGAN WITHIN
THE SOUTH AMERI-
CAN JUNGLE..."



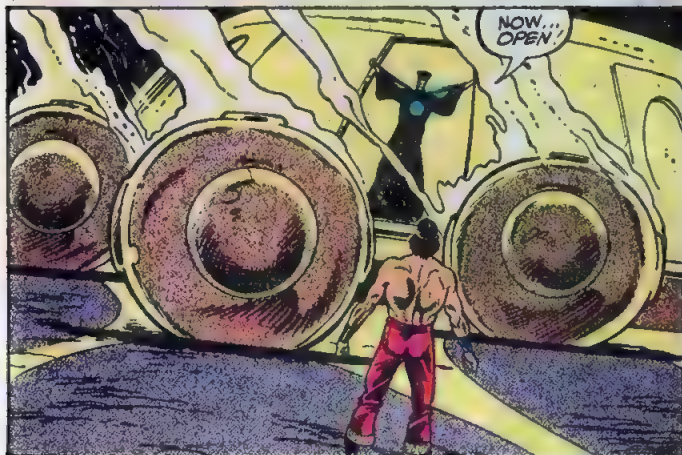
SETTLE--AND SURROUND
ME WITH THE THREE
POINTS OF PROTECTION!



"IN THE JUNGLE
WAS HIDDEN MY
FATHER'S NEW
FORTRESS AND
PARADISE..."



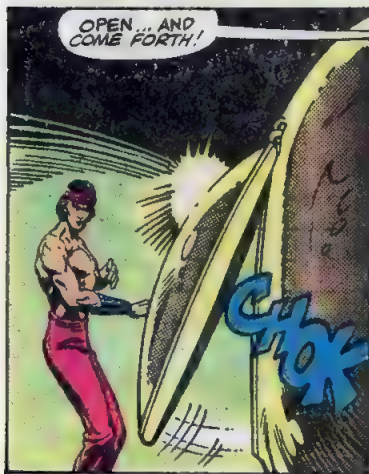
NOW...
OPEN!



"AND WITHIN THE
PARADISE THERE WAS A
PYRAMID..."



OPEN... AND
COME FORTH!



"AND WITHIN THE
PYRAMID WAS A
TUBE LEADING TO
A GROTTA..."



COME FORTH! BORN IN
DARKNESS, EMERGE
INTO LIGHT!



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CAPTAIN AMERICA ■ HOLOCAUST
FOR HIRE
FANTASTIC FOUR IN DOOMSDAY

TOMORROW
HULK & SPIDER-MAN IN
MURDERMOON
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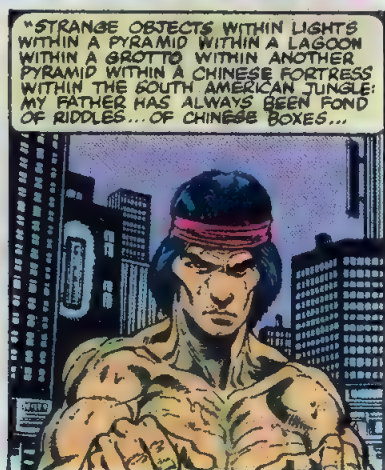
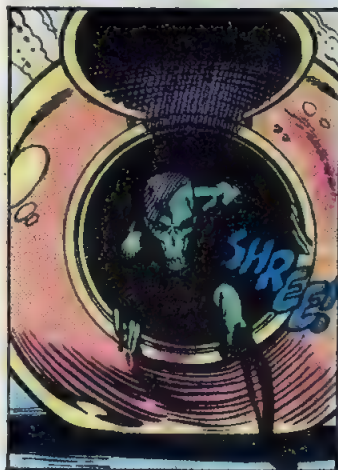
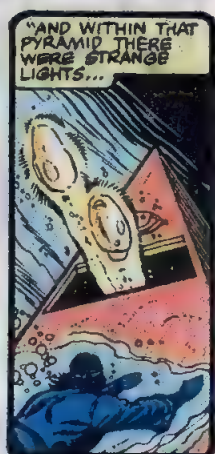
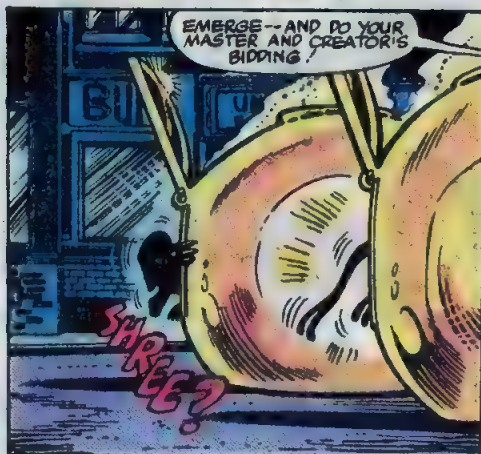
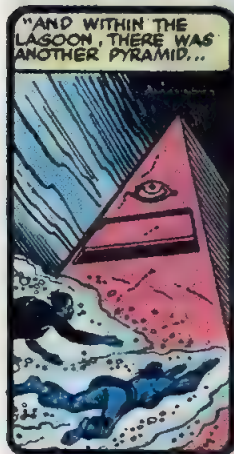
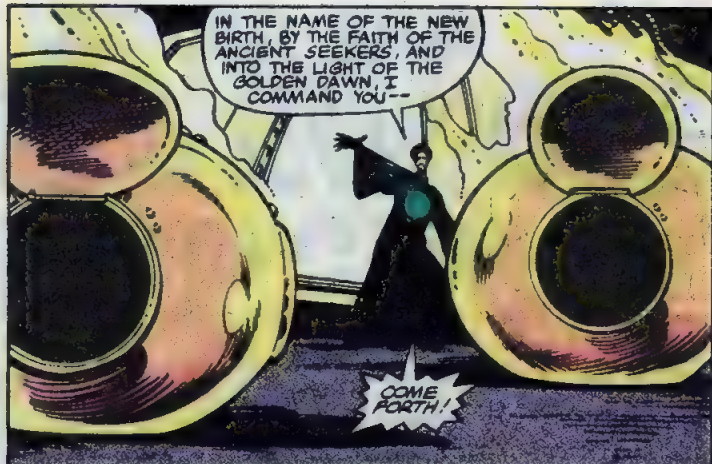
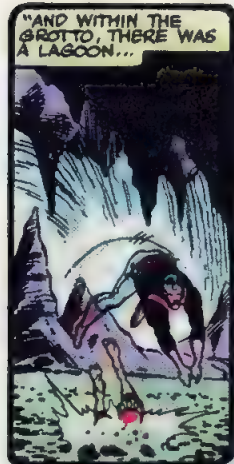
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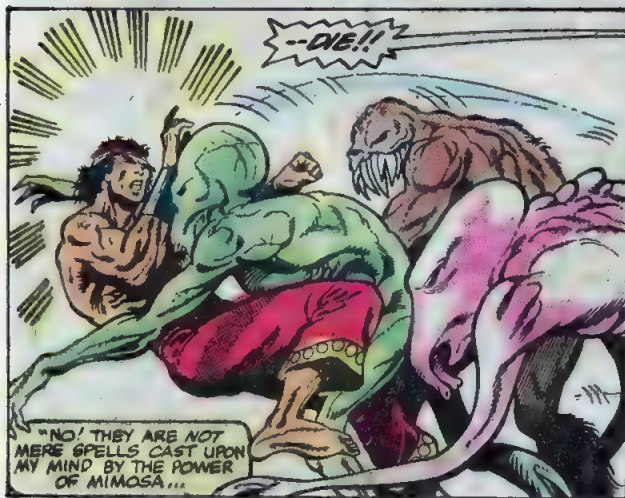
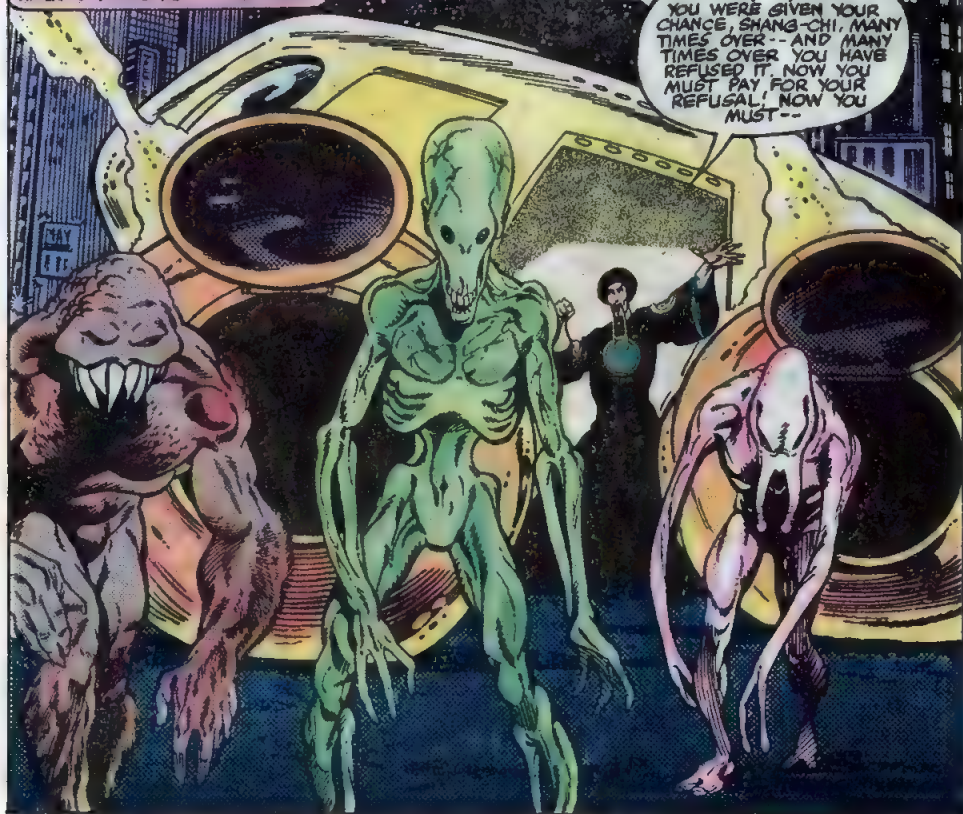
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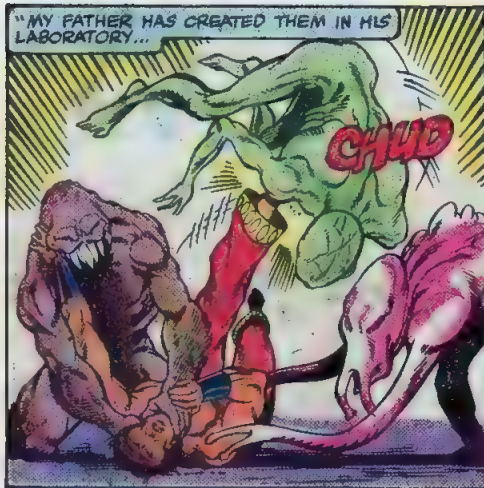
"BUT THE FINAL RIDDLE REMAINED: WHAT WAS WITHIN THE STRANGE OBJECTS-- WITHIN THE LIGHTS? THE ANSWER IS NOW UPON ME, MIMOSA VISION OF FU MANCHU'S HIDEOUS TRUTH, REVEALED IN THE GARISH LIGHTS OF TIMES SQUARE AS--- MADNESS."

SEE THEM, SHANG-CHI-- AND KNOW THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE, MY SON! THEY ARE FASTER AND STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER COMPARABLE LIFE-FORM ON EARTH!

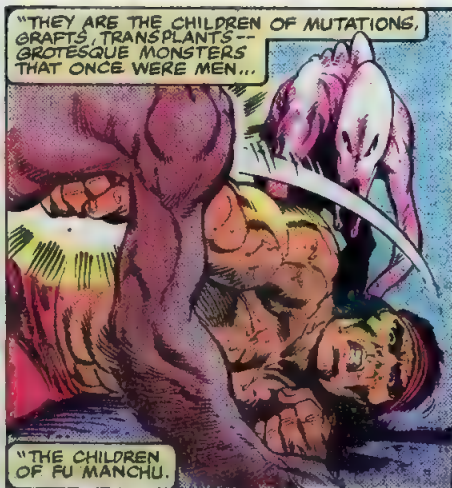
YOU WERE GIVEN YOUR CHANCE, SHANG-CHI. MANY TIMES OVER-- AND MANY TIMES OVER YOU HAVE REFUSED IT. NOW YOU MUST PAY FOR YOUR REFUSAL, NOW YOU MUST--



"MY FATHER HAS CREATED THEM IN HIS LABORATORY..."



"THEY ARE THE CHILDREN OF MUTATIONS, GRAFTS, TRANSPLANTS-- GROTESQUE MONSTERS THAT ONCE WERE MEN..."



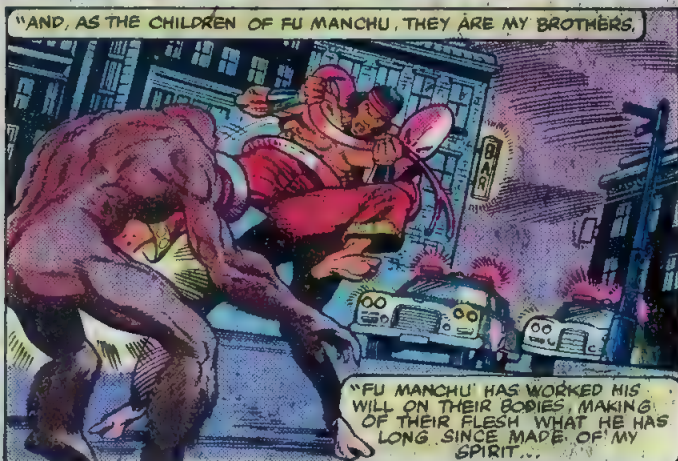
"THE CHILDREN OF FU MANCHU."

LESS THAN TWO MINUTES TO GO-- DEVIL OF A WAY TO SPEND WHAT MAY BE THE END OF A LONG, LONG FRIENDSHIP, SIR DENIS.



I KNOW, BLACK JACK... I KNOW.

"AND, AS THE CHILDREN OF FU MANCHU, THEY ARE MY BROTHERS."



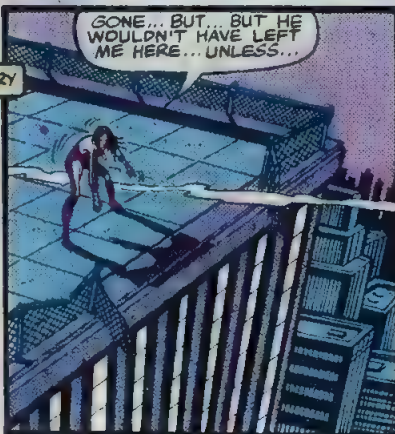
"FU MANCHU HAS WORKED HIS WILL ON THEIR BODIES, MAKING OF THEIR FLESH WHAT HE HAS LONG SINCE MADE OF MY SPIRIT..."

SH-SHANG-CHI... ?



"A MOCKERY

GONE... BUT... BUT HE WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT ME HERE... UNLESS...



NO... OH, NO...

...NO...

...NO...

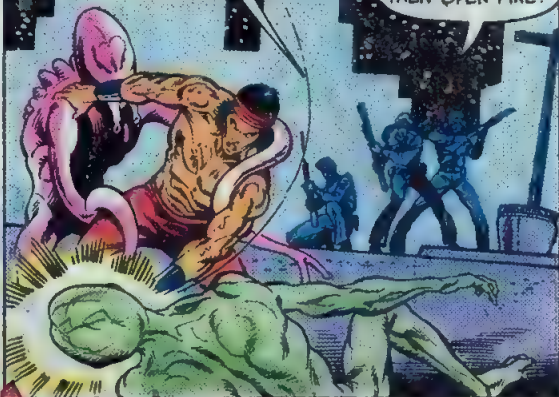


...NO!

"BUT MY FATHER SPOKE THE TRUTH
ABOUT THEIR SPEED AND STRENGTH.
MOCKERIES, HELPLESS PAWNS, BROTHERS
--OR NOT-- THEY WILL SOON SLAY ME...

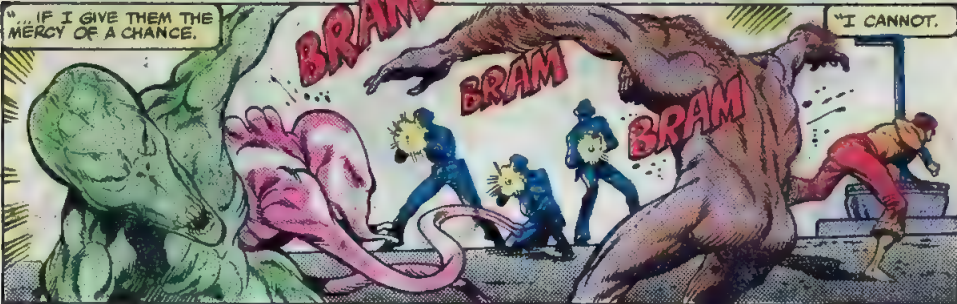


THE SQUARE'S BEEN
EVACUATED AND
CORDONED!



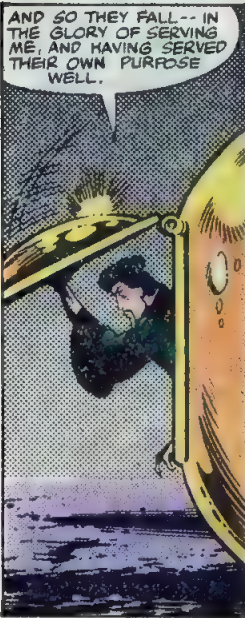
GOOD-- WAIT TILL
THAT KID GETS
OUTTA THE WAY--
THEN OPEN FIRE!

"...IF I GIVE THEM THE
MERCY OF A CHANCE.



"I CANNOT.

AND SO THEY FALL-- IN
THE GLORY OF SERVING
ME, AND HAVING SERVED
THEIR OWN PURPOSE
WELL.



FOR THEY HAVE GIVEN
ME THE NECESSARY
TIME IN WHICH TO
ESCAPE...



AND YET
THERE IS SO
LITTLE TIME
REMAINING...



I...
I STILL
CAN'T...
B-BELIEVE
IT.

GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.

1.



2.



3.



The first thing to do—pick the right chew: Hubba Bubba.™ The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill: (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.



Big guy blowing little bubble.



Little guy blowing big Hubba Bubba bubble.



YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum—Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

Note proper stance.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

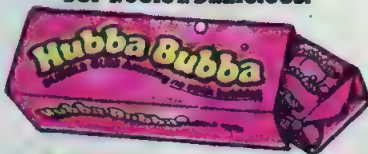
This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.

DADGUM MY BUBBLEGUM!



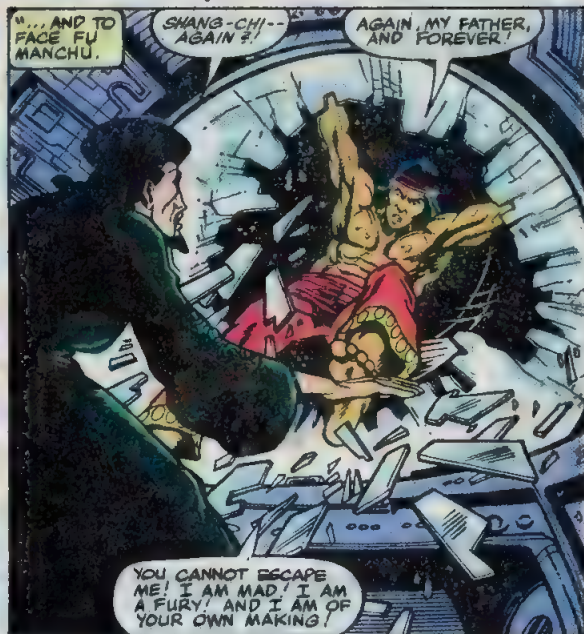
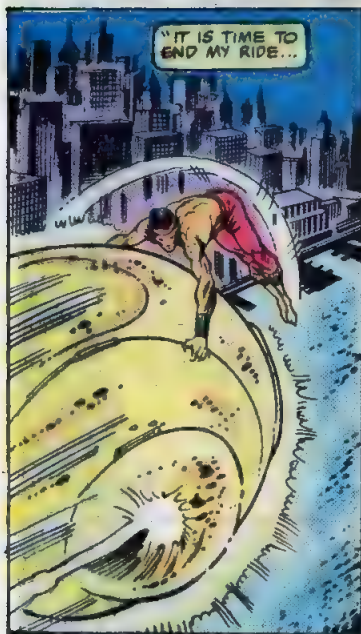
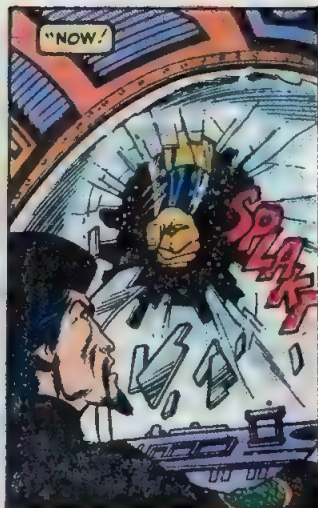
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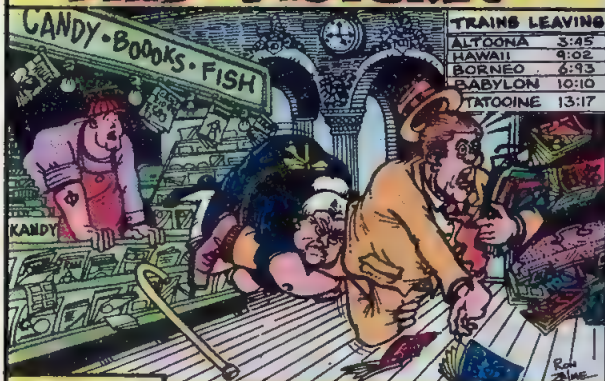
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HAWAII	9:02
BORNEO	6:93
BABYLON	10:10
TATOOINE	13:17

ANSWERS:

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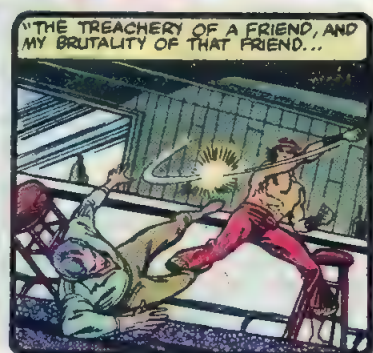
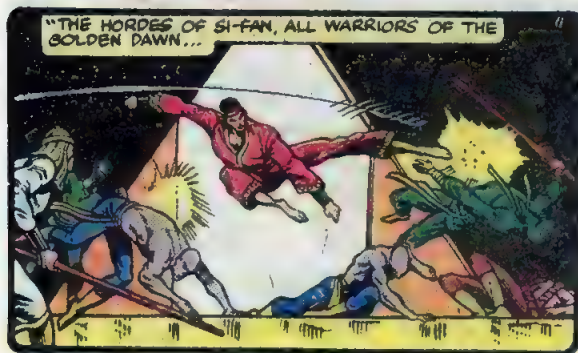
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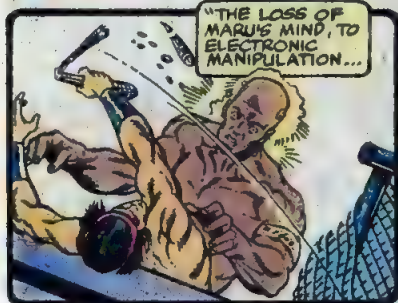
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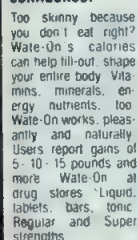
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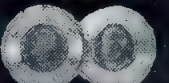


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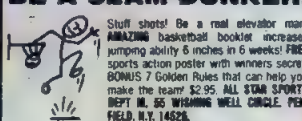
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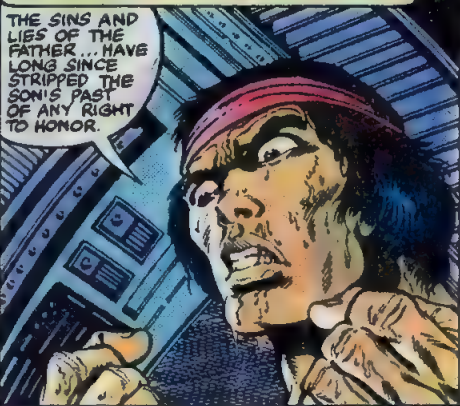
"AND IT REACHES HIM, FILLING HIS EYES, INDEED, I HAVE NEVER BEFORE SEEN SUCH AN EXPRESSION CLAIMING THE FACE OF MY FATHER..."

YOU... YOU HAVE DESECRATED MY PERSON. YOU HAVE BLASPHEMED AGAINST ME. YOU HAVE... SHATTERED ALL HONOR BETWEEN US.



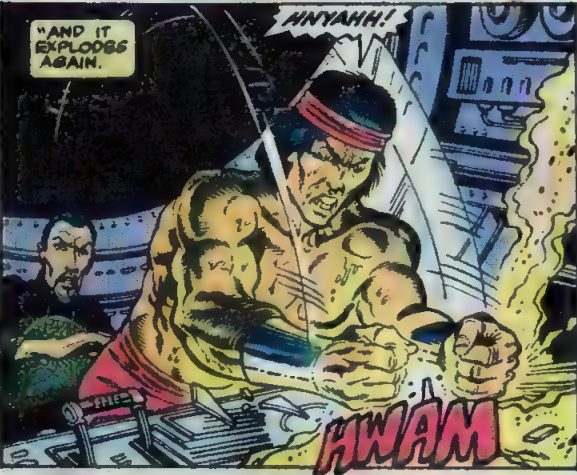
"BUT STILL--STILL!--HE WILL NOT STOP!"

THE SINS AND LIES OF THE FATHER... HAVE LONG SINCE STRIPPED THE SON'S PART OF ANY RIGHT TO HONOR.



"AND IT EXPLODES AGAIN."

ANYAAH!



KYAAH!!



STOP! THE CONTROLS! YOU'RE INSANE! LISTEN TO ME, MY SON-- YOU WOULD KILL BOTH OF US!!

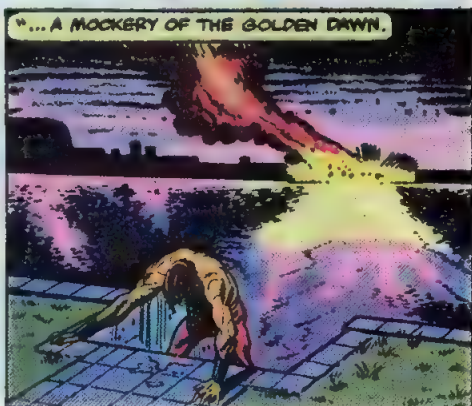
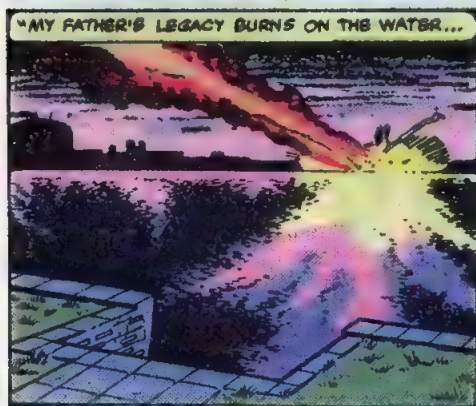
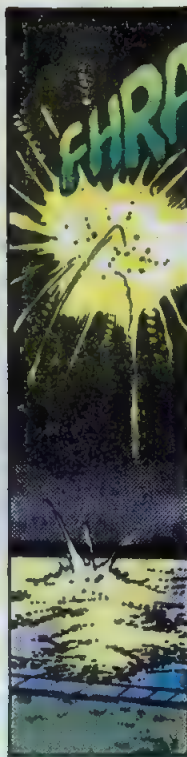
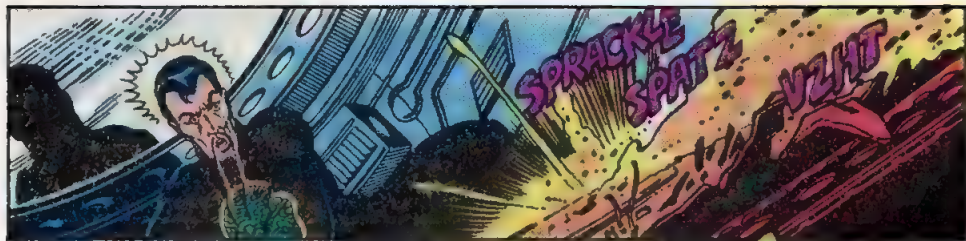


NO, MY FATHER, I WOULD KILL ONLY A FORCE OF EVIL AND DEATH. I WOULD KILL...



...ONLY YOU.





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STAN'S SOAPBOX

Unless you've been malingering on the moon for the past year or so — and we know that no Marvelite True would ever do that — you must be aware how many new and exciting projects your ever-lovin' Bullpen has been cooking up for you!

Our new, higher-priced publications like the mind-staggering EPIC, and the now-classic WARRIORS OF THE SHADOW REALM have taken all of fandom by storm. The big-budget SILVER SURFER movie project is barreling along smooth as silk, as are our many animated cartoon shows for Saturday morning TV. Anyway, no need to mention each and every brain-blasting

project — you get the idea.

Now, the punch line! The point of all this valorous verbiage is to set your minds at ease, once and for all. Many people have asked me, in voices quivering with care and concern, "Does this mean that Marvel is losing interest in its own lovable line of regular color comics? Does this mean the monthly 40¢ mags are less important than they used to be? Does this mean you guys'll just be concentrating on the big, bombshell type spectaculars and forget about the good ol' line of super heroes that made you famous?"

The answer, of course, is a deafening, resounding, thunderous NO! Just for the record, we want all of

Marveldom Assembled to know that our award-winning line of monthly color comics are the absolute and unshakable foundation of our entire entertainment entity! The color comics started it all! The color comics are our first love — our greatest love! The color comics are what Marvel is all about! That's the way it's always been — and take it from me, good buddy, that's the way it's gonna stay!

Excelsior!



Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #84** — The Thing teams up with Triton the Inhuman and Stingray.
- ☐ **SHOGUN WARRIORS #17** — An alien plot to throw Earth back into the Dark Ages!
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #27** — He's back! Spider-Woman's deadliest foe: the Enforcer!
- ☐ **STAR TREK #3** — The cataclysmic conclusion of Mighty Marvel's adaptation of Star Trek — the Motion Picture!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #205** — Can you guess the real reason behind the Black Cat's robbery spree?
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #245** — It's up to Cap to stop one of Spider-Man's earliest foes — *A Guy Named Joe*!
- ☐ **THOR #296** — Thor-turned-mortal must battle to the death against All-Father Odin!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #18** — Trapped in a mysterious house, the Micronauts are attacked by strange forces!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #46** — "The Ghost Rider No More!"
- ☐ **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #16** — The menace of Mark III — the Ultimate Cylon!
- ☐ **MACHINE MAN #15** — What is the incredible threat of... *Ion*?
- ☐ **KING CONAN #2** — "The Black Sphinx of Nebthul!"
- ☐ **MARVEL FUN AND GAMES #10** — Puzzles, mazes, brain-teasers, and more!
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #41** — Baron Mordo — with the unwitting aid of the Man-Thing — enacts his plan to destroy the Earth!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #246** — The Hulk's odyssey in Jarella's subatomic world continues.

- ☐ **SAVAGE SHE-HULK #5** — The secret of Trask revealed!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #196** — A shocking look inside the Solomon Institute for the Criminally Insane.
- ☐ **CONAN #111** — Conan fights for his life against a primitive science he cannot fathom!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #118** — A blast from Spidey's past: "Day of the Grizzly!"
- ☐ **MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #89** — The FF in mortal combat with Janus and Annihilus in the Negative Zone! A Marvel classic!
- ☐ **X-MEN #134** — Showdown with the Hellfire Club!
- ☐ **TALES TO ASTONISH #7** — A gem from our vaults: "For President — the Man Called Destiny!"
- ☐ **ROM #7** — As ROM lies injured and helpless... the Living Plants attack!
- ☐ **FANTASY MASTERPIECES #7** — The Surfer battles the maddened "Hair of Frankenstein!" A Marvel demand-encore!
- ☐ **POWER MAN #63** — Power Man and Iron Fist versus Luck and Death.
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #219** — Captain Barracuda! Sub-Mariner! Sub-sea monsters! What more do ya want?
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #94** — Will Spider-Man and the Shroud be the victims of the death dance of *Dansen Macabre*?
- ☐ **IRON MAN #135** — Shellhead takes on the Titanium Man!
- ☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #43** — She can dissolve Spider-Man's webs — and that's just the beginning! How can the wall-crawler ever defeat... *Belldonna*?

MAKE MINE MARVEL!

- ☐ **DEFENDERS #54** — The Black Panther vs. Sub-Mariner, Dr. Strange and the Incredible Hulk!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER-ACTION #20** — From the best of the Avengers: The mystery of *Yellowjacket*!
- ☐ **AMAZING ADVENTURES #7** — Reprising two of Marvel's finest: "The Brotherhood of Evil Mutants!" Plus: "The Iceman Cometh!"
- ☐ **STAR WARS #38** — For the first time ever... Luke stand lightsaber to lightsaber with Darth Vader!
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #89** — Shang-Chi's final battle with Fu Manchu!
- ☐ **MARVEL PREMIERE #54** — The debut of Marvel's all new western hero, Caleb Hammer!
- ☐ **SGT. FURY #158** — Proudly we re-present: "The Basic Training of Sgt. Fury!"
- ☐ **WHAT IF #21** — "What if the invincible Girl had married the Sub-Mariner?"
- ☐ **CRAZY #62** — They said it couldn't be done. So we didn't do it! Instead, there's this month's Crazy!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #52** — The sullen-eyed barbarian's blood-drenched ascension to the throne of Aquilonia!
- ☐ **HOWARD THE DUCK #6** — Howard tangles with the Lord of the Undead, everyone's favorite neck biter... Count Dracula!
- ☐ **MARVEL TREASURY #25: SPIDER-MAN AND THE HULK AT THE WINTER OLYMPICS** — There's pandemonium in Lake Placid as Spidey and of Greenstein get caught in a war between Kate, Queen of the Netherworld, and the misanthropic Mole Man!

MOON KNIGHT

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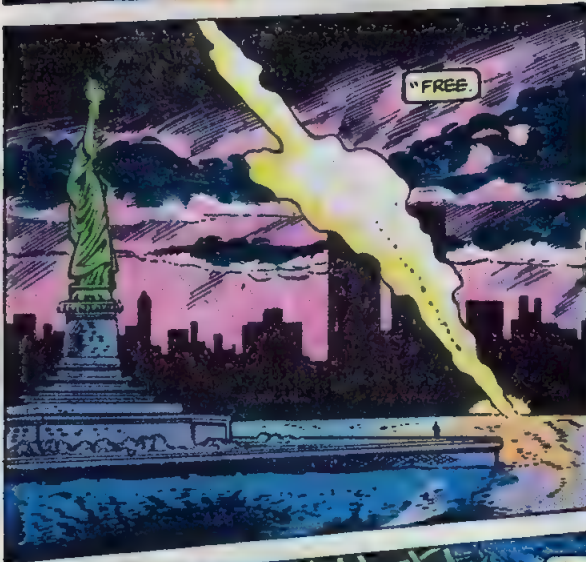
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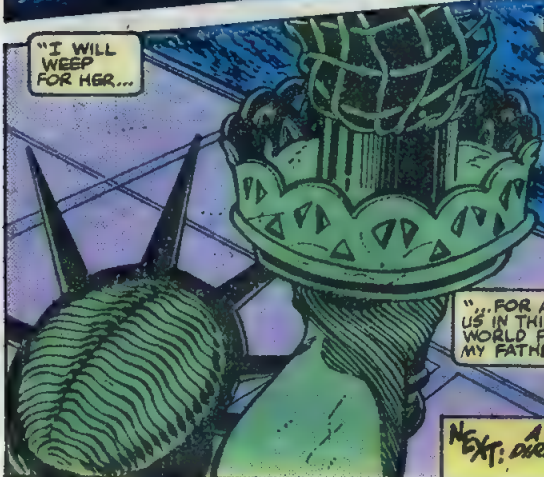


"FREE."

"YES... BUT SHE MOCKS ME, MOCKS MY DEED... PERHAPS, MOCKS HER OWN EXISTENCE A PRISONER IN METAL MASQUEADING AS A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM. SHE KNOWS, NONE OF US ARE FREE, ALL... ARE PRISONERS."



"I WILL WEEP FOR HER..."



"...FOR MYSELF..."

"...FOR ALL OF US IN THIS WORLD FREE OF MY FATHER."

Next: A NEW TRIUMPHS OF
DIRECTION-- THE FLESH!

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

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575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB SUDANSKY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Doug,

Waking up this morning with my radio-alarm set on good ol' Rock 'n Roll, the Explanation for Shang-Chi's recent slim slow slide into adolescent angst hit me with the full force of Cosmic Revelation! As the music played, my mind flew back to the times when he and Leiko measured their lives and loves by the rhythmic rumours of Fleetwood Mac — and oh! how gracefully the body dances, the spirit advances, when taken by that tune!

But, as all songs must, it ended too soon, its needle stuck in the run-out groove; and when that Cosmic Sequence came down at last, Shang-Chi was sitting in his room, quoting the words of Mick Jagger. Does this mean he now has sympathy for the Devil Doctor? Will Fleetwood Mac go disco? Stay tuned!

Cat Yronwode
c/o The Hotel California
Back in the U.S.A.

Having listened to *Tusk* for the first time last Friday (the very first day of its release, need we mention?), Doug can answer at least one of your burning questions, Cat: No, Fleetwood Mac have decided not to go disco, and with a vengeance.

Incidentally, Chi's favorite track is "Sara" by Nicks ("...in the sea of love, where everyone would love to drown..."), while Leiko is partial to several of the McVie tracks. Doug himself wishes the Buckingham tracks had featured the other members of the band for greater integration and modulation; indeed, the discrete nature of the entire LP reminds him of the latter days of the Beatles and he fears further fragmentation and imminent breakup. Tarr, of course, couldn't care less.

— Fleetwood Moench

Dear Masters, "Breathless" was truly an appropriate title for the latest chapter in Shang-Chi's life since, as a reader, I was left breathless myself. The pace was nonstop all the way with Tarr, Reston, and Chi having nary a moment to think, let alone breathe comfortably, and I was swept along in the process.

But perhaps the weirdest thing about this story — and it's something I'm not sure I can adequately explain — was the feeling of temporal dislocation. Not quite a feeling of *deja vu*, it nevertheless was a feeling that this tale had been put together many years earlier and was just now seeing the light of day. It seemed to be the product of a time less oriented to fabrication and production-line mentality, offering both a simplicity of design and an enhancement of detail. Something in the artwork, something in the story itself, reeked of a simpler and more engrossing period. A time of care, compassion, beauty, elegance, but also a time of horror, suffering, and strife. But perhaps I'm just rambling. The feeling is difficult to express — a simultaneous sensation of being both out of place but also completely appropriate — a unique feeling. Perhaps someday I'll be able to express it better. But whatever it was, it felt good. I thank you.

Tad Ray Christiansen
11486 Victoria Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601

You're welcome, Tad. While "Breathless" was produced in the same sequence in which it was eventually published, your feeling of "temporal dislocation" is not a fluke but rather the precise reaction Doug and Mike were hoping to elicit. Indeed, "Breathless" is simply one further manifestation of Doug's personal credo for the handling of MOKF: As Soon As The Readers Start Thinking Of The Book As Being Predictable, Zap 'Em Right Between The Eyes With Something Totally Unexpected. Past examples of this credo would surely include: The Hackstaber stories, the six-part alternating narration device employed in the first *Fu Manchu* opus, the Brynooki zanyness, Chi's sudden interest in Western music, Tarr's love of Frazetta, Leiko's past, the "de-mythification" of Juliette, the recent "Spotlight on Fu Manchu" in #83, and — to a lesser extent — next issue.

— D.M.

Dear Sirs,

I have not read comicbooks with any regularity for more than two years now, but upon reading two recent issues of MASTER OF KUNG FU (#s 80 and 81), I'm thinking of becoming addicted again. Even though I was not familiar with the present direction of the book, I found myself extremely interested in the going-on, and looking forward to picking up the back issues of what I've missed. Not only were the two books highly enjoyable in and of themselves, but it was also comforting to find that comics of this caliber are still being produced. I found Mike Zeck's art to be excellent, certainly an appropriate style for the book, but was not as impressed with Gene Day's inking. I'm not complaining, however; it's simply my opinion. In fact, it was not at all my intention to criticize in this letter, but rather to endorse the overall fine job Moench and Zeck are doing on MOKF. It was the dearth of books like this that caused me to stop reading and collecting comics the first time. I hope I will never be forced to stop again.

Alexander Garvin
82 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014

We'll drink to that, Alex. As frustrated as we sometimes are with the medium's median of quality, we've long been hooked on comics ourselves. And if you're looking for other current titles boasting that old-time "special magic," how about checking out the latest issue of THOR, to name just one. Roy Thomas is off to the races on a very exciting track. Try it!

— Doug Moench

NEXT ISSUE: Having already mentioned the "unexpected" nature of next month's offering, we'll only add that the tale — "Triumphs of the Flesh" — is the first of two parts conceived as an antidote for that old malady known as the Post-Opus Letdown. We've shifted gears into a slightly different direction with the hopes of giving Shang-Chi a shot in the arm. May it be salubrious to his — and your — health!



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